

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 /058 W

-----081022Z 072723 /12

R 070941Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1245

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3622

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: CDS TOUGHENS STAND

REF: (A) LISBON 3325 (DTG 281505Z APR 77), (B) LISBON 3525

(DTG 041641Z MAY 77)

SUMMARY: CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL IN A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SPEECH CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCY AND FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. AMARAL CITED PRESIDENT EANES'S APRIL 25 SPEECH IN PROPOSING THAT THE GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TO WORK OUT A COMMON PLATFORM ON "MEASURES OF NATIONAL SALVATION." THE TOUGHER STAND BY THE CDS WHICH HAS COOPERATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE
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PAST SIX MONTHS, PUTS ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON SOARES TO INVOLVE THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FREITAS DO AMARAL PROPOSES NEGOTIATIONS: IN A MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SPEECH MAY 5 CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- LACK OF DIALOGUE: THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RECEIVED THE OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR MONTHS.

-- POOR PERFORMANCE: THE GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS INEFFICIENCY BY FAILING TO RESPOND TO THE CRIME INCREASE, TO ASSIST RETURNEES, OR TO HALF THE INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING.

-- NEED TO RESPOND TO PRESIDENT: THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGE LAID DOWN IN PRESIDENT EANE'S APRIL 25 SPEECH (REF A).

-- CDS URGES PLATFORM: "THE CDS PROPOSES THAT FORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES BEGIN NEXT WEEK TO WORK OUT PLATFORMS OF UNDERSTANDING ON ... MEASURES OF NATIONAL SALVATION." THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION SHOULD AGREE TO A PRIOR LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

-- WARNING TO THE GOVERNMENT: IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILS TO RESPOND TO THE "NATIONAL SALVATION" PROPOSAL, THEN THE CDS WILL HAVE TO REVIEW ITS POSITION TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT.

2. RC CALLS FOR NONPARTISANSHIP: THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) CALLED FOR NONPARTISAN STANDS BY MILITARY AT ITS MAY 4 MEETING. THE RC STATEMENT ADDRESSED THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING MELO ANTUNES'S REMARKS TO THE HUNGARIAN PRESS AGENCY (REF B) AS FOLLOWS:

-- DIVISIONS DENIED: THERE IS NOT ANY DIVISION OR CONFRONTATION WITHIN THE RC.

-- NONPARTISAN STATEMENTS: "ALL ARMED FORCES
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MEMBERS WITHOUT EXCEPTION" MUST RESPECT SCRUPULOUSLY THE NONPARTISAN CHARACTER OF THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY IN ANY STATEMENTS WHICH ARE AUTHORIZED.

-- PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY: THE RC AND THE ARMED FORCES FULFILL THEIR MISSIONS IN STRICT ACCORD WITH THE PRESIDENT. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER TOLD ARMA MAY 6 THAT THE ANTUNES CONTROVERSY WAS FAR FROM OVER.

3. HIGHER PROFILE FOR COSTA GOMES: FORMER PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES LEFT MAY 5 FOR THE "WORLD ASSEMBLY OF THE ARCHITECTS OF PEACE" IN WARSAW. COSTA GOMES WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE WARSAW CONFERENCE AS AN INVITEE OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL AND THE PORTUGUESE COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION. A FEW DAYS EARLIER COSTA GOMES MADE A RARE PUBLIC APPEARANCE AT THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGTP-SPONSORED MAY DAY CELEBRATION.

4. COMMENT: FREITAS DO AMARAL'S PUBLIC WARNING TO THE GOVERNMENT APPEALS TO HIS PARTY'S CONSERVATIVE MEMBERSHIP.

A TOUGHER STAND BY THE CDS, WHICH HAS COOPERATED WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, PUTS ADDITIONAL PRESSURE
ON SOARES TO INVOLVE THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN
GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS.
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